

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4069
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
TELECOM SERVICES IN NORTH EAST
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of tele-density separately in regard to land lines, mobiles and internet in each of the North Eastern States at the commencement of years 2000 and 2013, State-wise in comparison to average teledensity of the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for the expansion of telephone and broadband services in North Eastern States;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to incorporate concessions in telecom tariff for consumers in the North Eastern States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SMT.) KILLI KRUPARANI)

(a) Comparable tele-density figures are not separately available for landline, mobile telephones and internet for the required years. North-East Telecom Circle includes six states. The State of Assam is a separate telecom circle while Sikkim comes under West Bengal Telecom Circle. Contained Tele-density details as on 31.12.1999 and on 31.12.2012 are given below:

TELEDENSITY

As on North-East Assam India

31.12.1999 1.56% 1.06% 2.86%

31.12.2012 66.53% 46.50% 73.34%

Details of internet connections in North-East, Assam and rest of India as on 31.12.2012 is given below:

(in Lakhs)

Internet connections Internet connections Internet connections in
in North-East in Assam rest of India

1.27 1.07 250.94

Comparable figures as on 31.12.1999 are not available.

(b) Department of Telecommunications has received several representations about the quality and coverage of telecommunication services in North-Eastern States. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was requested to collect information from all service Providers operating in the North Eastern Region including private operators and to prepare a gap analysis with an investment plan for providing quality, reliable telecommunication services in the North East Region.

TRAI has submitted its recommendations on 26th September 2013. Telecom Commission (TC) in its meeting held on 6.11.2013 has approved 'in principle' the implementation of a comprehensive telecom development plan in North-Eastern Region (NER), for providing 2G (Voice) coverage in uncovered villages, 2G (Voice) coverage in uncovered towns, subdivision and block HQs,

Seamless 2G (Voice) coverage along National Highways and Optical Fibre ring connectivity to district headquarters and augmentation of transmission media.

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for implementation of the above Plan.

(c) No, Madam. There is no proposal for concession in telecom tariff for consumers.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.